



# Department of Justice

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## **LAWRENCE COUNTY MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO STEALING TIMBER FROM WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST**

*Sentenced to pay almost \$20,000 in restitution*

IRONTON – Robert Horner, age 45, of South Webster, Ohio, and Michael Sark, age 44, of Pedro, Ohio, each pled guilty to one count of theft of timber from public lands for illegally harvesting trees from the Wayne National Forest.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Richard R. Glodowski, Special Agent in Charge, Region 9, U.S. Forest Service and Mary Reddan, Forest Supervisor, Wayne National Forest, announced the pleas entered before United States Magistrate Judge Michael Merz on October 23, 2006 at a special sitting of the U.S. District Court in Ironton.

According to a statement of facts filed with the pleas, Sark trespassed onto the Wayne National Forest in June, 2002 and cut down and removed, or significantly damaged timber with an approximate value of \$9,511.74. In the course of the trespass and the cutting and removal of timber, the Sark also damaged archeological resources.

In October, 2003, Horner trespassed onto the Wayne National Forest where he cut down and removed or significantly damaged thirty-eight trees, and an additional five pulpwood quality trees weighing approximately two tons, with a combined value of approximately \$6,503.40.

Sark was fined \$300, and agreed to pay \$4,570 to the United States Forest Service in restitution, and \$3,099 for damage to archeological resources on the site that occurred during the timber operation, and sentenced to one year of probation.

Horner agreed to pay \$6,503.40 to the United States Forest Service in restitution. He was fined \$300, and sentenced to one year of probation.

“We hope that this case sends a message that we will prosecute those who steal from the lands held for the benefit of all Americans,” Lockhart said. He also commended the agents of the Forest Service who investigated the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted the case.

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